Pollution Control Boards to issue notices to defaulting grossly polluting industries directly discharging their effluents in the rivers and lakes to instal effluent treatment plants within 3 months failing which closure notices shall be issued against such industries. A total of 15 common effluent treatment plants are being set-up in Delhi for clusters of small scale industries under the World Bank scheme for which Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 22.50 crore.

(c) and (d) An analysis of river water quality data for Yamuna in Delhi for the past three years does not indicate any significant charge in terms of its improvement. The impact of the pollution abatement works undertaken will be visible only after all these works are completed by December, 1999.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing Licences

3301. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishermen led by the National Fish Workers Forum and National Fisheries Action Committee have decided to launch an indefinite blockade Vizag, Kandla and Mumbai ports to press for cancellation of Deep sea Fishing Licences;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given a written assurance that licences would be cancelled as per the Murari Committee's recommendations;

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing the Murari Committee's recommendations; and

(d) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) No intimation of any such decision has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(d) Action has already been taken for implementing the decisions of the Government on the recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing.

Weed Pollution in Cereals/Paddy Crops in U.P.

3302. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether weeds are one of the major problems in most of the cereal crops especially paddy and to increase the production of cereals it is necessary to eradicate weeds at the primitive stage;

(b) if so, the cereal crops in Uttar Pradesh affected due to weeds during the last season;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought assistance or subsidy for the use of weedicides under ICDP Scheme; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per reports available there is sporadic incilence of weeds in paddy during the last season.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Procurement Price and Import of Wheat

3303. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reduced the loan amount of traders against the purchase of wheat thereby decreasing their purchasing power as a result of which the farmers are on the brink of ruin; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to tide-over the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) With a view to increasing procurement of wheat for Central Pool, the Reserve Bank of India brought back wheat under the provisions of Selective Credit Control for a period of 3 months from 8th April, 1997. However, farmers' interests are protected by Price Support Operations, as FCI, State Governments and their Agencies procure wheat at Minimum Support Prices.

[English]

Tiger Farming

3304. SHRI SUBRAMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three proposals for tiger farming by three South Asian Nations are still under consideration of the Government;